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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 001781

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SA, SA/INS, S/CT, EUR/UBI, EUR/NB; NSC
FOR E. MILLARD

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10-14-13

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [CE](#) [NO](#) [EI](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: Tiger delegation wraps up meeting in Ireland
and proceeds on to Norway

Refs: (A) Dublin 1369 (Notal)
- (B) Colombo 1778, and previous

(U) Classified by James F. Entwistle, Deputy Chief of
Mission. Reasons 1.5 (b,d).

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Tamil Tigers have wrapped up their meeting at the Glencrece Center for Reconciliation located south of Dublin. The Glencrece meeting appears to have helped the group further polish its response to the GSL's north/east interim administration proposal. The Tiger delegation is now on its way to Oslo for discussions with the Norwegian facilitators. If all goes smoothly, the Tigers and the GSL seem on target to restart direct negotiations by next month. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) GLENCRECE MEETING: The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have wrapped up their internal October 6-10 meeting at the Glencrece Center for Reconciliation located south of Dublin. Political Wing Chief S.P. Thamilchelvam and Eastern Province military commander Karuna led the LTTE team attending the discussions. A number of pro-LTTE Tamils from outside of Sri Lanka also attended the meeting. Several international legal experts also participated, including Professor Anthony Regan of the Australian National University and Professor Christine Bell of Ulster University. As it did during a similar LTTE meeting in Paris last month (see Ref B), the Canadian NGO, the "Forum of Federations," also briefed the group on federalist constitutional options. Norwegian government Special Envoy on Sri Lankan peace facilitation issues Erik Solheim also participated in some of the discussions (see below). While in Ireland, the LTTE team also reportedly visited the Irish Parliament at the invitation of Sinn Fein parliamentarians.

3. (C) LITTLE INFORMATION ON SUBSTANCE: As with Paris, the Glencrece meeting appears to have helped the group further polish its response to the Sri Lankan government's interim administrative arrangement proposal for the north/east (see Ref B). The Tigers have revealed little of substance about the nature of their Glencrece discussions, with the pro-LTTE website "TamilNet" providing only sketchy coverage, for example. S.P. Thamilchelvam was quoted in the local press in Sri Lanka, however, as stating that the meeting was "constructive" and that he thought the Tigers' counterproposals would be welcomed in a positive manner by the GSL.

4. (C) Local Tamil politicians also did not have much information regarding the exact nature of the Glencrece discussions. After noting that he had not received a full briefing regarding Glencrece as of yet, however, R. Sampanthan, a senior MP for the Tamil National Alliance, told poloff October 14 that he was encouraged by the "depth" of the Tigers' discussions about the GSL's interim administration proposal. Echoing Thamilchelvam, Sampanthan added that he thought the group would come up with "positive" counterproposals, which the government would be wise to take seriously if it wanted the peace process to move forward.

5. (C) ON TO NORWAY: The Tigers' tour of Europe continues. After a brief stop in Denmark, Thamilchelvam and Karuna are scheduled to hold meetings October 14-17 in Oslo with Norwegian government officials, including Foreign Minister Jan Petersen. During the visit, the LTTE team will also meet with representatives of the local Tamil community in Oslo and make a stop in Bergen. Asked about the visit, Kjersti Tromsdahl, a Norwegian Embassy poloff, told us that the GoN wanted to review a number of issues related to the peace process with the LTTE leaders while they were in Europe. Tromsdahl noted that Solheim thought that Glencrece had gone well, with the Tigers taking the discussions very seriously.

6. (C) COMMENT: The plan for some time now has been for the Tigers to provide their counterproposals to the

Norwegians in October and for the GoN to convey them onwards to the GSL (lead government negotiator G.L. Peiris told DUSTR Shiner October 14 that he expects the government to receive the LTTE counterproposals on or about October 26). The idea is that these counterproposals would form the basis for a new set of face-to-face talks involving the GSL and the LTTE beginning in the November timeframe. At this point, the positive news is that this schedule seems to be holding. There remain some concerns in Colombo circles, however, that the Tigers may try to drive a hard bargain with their counterproposals, thus complicating any talks that do take place. END COMMENT.

17. (U) Minimize considered.

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